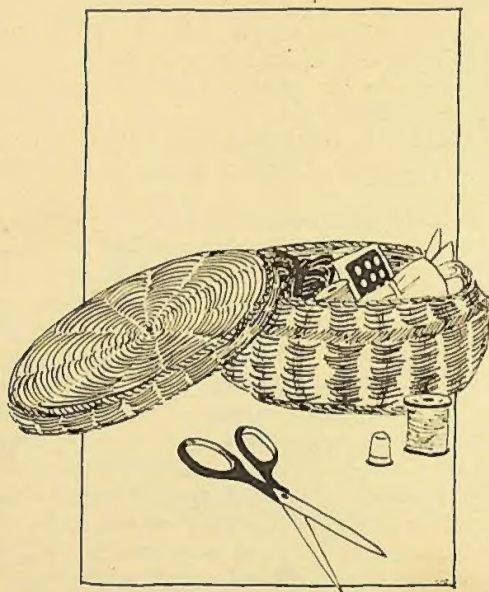


Repair of Clothing



By

EDNA M. CALLAHAN
BERTHA BAKER EVERHART
*Clothing Specialists,
The Ohio State University*

Repair of Clothing

A WELL-DRESSED person realizes that no matter how well chosen and attractive clothes are in themselves, they must be in good repair if one is to look well-groomed. A hole, rent, missing fastener, or broken shoe string detracts from one's personal appearance.

If clothes are to give the maximum service, they must be mended promptly. Constant and careful mending prolongs the life of a garment, and helps one to save considerably on the year's clothing expenditure.

Clothing must be mended carefully and neatly, if it is to look well. This requires considerable time. How do you plan to get your mending done? Have you ever discussed your problems with your neighbors? Would this be a helpful topic for discussion at a community meeting of women?

SUGGESTIONS

"A stitch in time saves nine."—Mend small rents before they enlarge.

Mending before laundering saves time and labor.

Use judgment as to the amount of time to spend in mending. Some garments do not warrant a great deal of time spent on them.

Use the sewing machine when possible for work clothes, cotton undergarments, bedding, old table linen, etc.

Choose mending materials to match the garment in texture, strength, color, and design. It may be necessary to fade a piece of material to match the garment.

Mercerized cotton thread often makes the least conspicuous mend.

A comfortable chair in a good light makes mending more pleasant.

A well stocked mending basket or box should include pincushion, emery, needles of various sizes, thimble, pins, tape measure, scissors, darning cotton, cotton thread, silk, or mercerized thread in colors most frequently used, hooks and eyes, snap fasteners and buttons. Include also the necessary materials for patches, added cuffs, collars, etc.

GENERAL REPAIRS

Sew buttons securely on new garments before wearing. Rework worn buttonholes in used garments. Replace broken stitches in hems, seams, plackets, etc. Use the same kind of thread and the same type of stitch as was used before.

Worn straps should be darned or new ones may be made of material like the garment. Shoulder straps should be $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in width when finished. It is best to crease the seam to one edge. In placing the strap turn the seam toward the center of the garment.

Facings and bindings may be darned if not too badly worn. Frequently it is best to apply a whole new facing or binding. The new material should match the old. Apply new parts carefully so the mend will be inconspicuous.

Worn collars and cuffs may be hand or machine darned. Sometimes a turn-back cuff may be turned down, making the outside appearance narrower, and thus concealing the mended edge underneath. Worn collars and cuffs on men's shirts may be ripped off, the under side turned to the right side and stitched in place, using the same method as was formerly used. If the garment is expected to give a good deal more wear, new collars and cuffs should be made. The worn ones may be used as a pattern.

Elastic bands in undergarments may be mended, but usually new ones are needed. To join elastic overlap the ends about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch and overhand the sides together. Finish cut ends with buttonhole stitch or by darning over them.

Ready-made supporters may be bought to replace worn ones, but they are usually expensive. Cheaper supporters can be made by combining new elastic with the fasteners from the old supporters. Observe the way in which the old ones were made and make new ones likewise.

Elastic insets in corsets and foundation garments may be replaced when they become too loose. Heavy, wide elastic for this purpose may be bought by the inch. Rip the bias facings which cover the joining of the old elastic to the garment. Insert the new elastic strip, baste, and stitch facings in place again.

Torn rubber articles may be mended with adhesive tape.

Garments in which the material has pulled out at the seams may be repaired by stitching the seam deeper if the size of the garment permits. If a deeper seam cannot be taken, cut a strip of matching material a little longer than the pulled portion. Place it on wrong side, baste in place, and with matching thread or ravelings of material, darn the thin portion to the new material.

If a hole has already appeared near a seam, a patch of matching material should be cut and the hole neatly patched with a hemmed or overhand patch, depending upon the use and value of the garment. If there are no small pieces of the same material on hand, part of the belt may be used or a small patch may be cut from the hem or other inconspicuous places of the garment.

If the style of the garment permits and there is enough suitable material available, pulled seams may be covered with pockets or trimming bands. Pulled out armseye seams which cannot be satisfactorily mended may necessitate remodeling the waist and sleeves of the garment.

Kimono sleeves which are pulled out and torn under the arm will have more "give" if a piece of material is set in where the strain comes. Cut on the straight of the material, a square patch large enough to replace the worn portion. Set the square in on the bias, that is, the two opposite corners should be in line with the under arm seam. A hemmed or overhand patch may be used depending upon the use and value of the garment.

Worn elbows in tight sleeves may be protected by basting inside the sleeve a strip of material three inches in width and slightly shorter than the width of the sleeve. Thus the strain is placed on the new material instead of the sleeve.

When the cuffs of men's trousers become worn, they may be mended and the cuff turned to the under side as a hem and hand hemmed or catch-stitched in place. Steam the lower edge of trousers before and after turning the cuff.

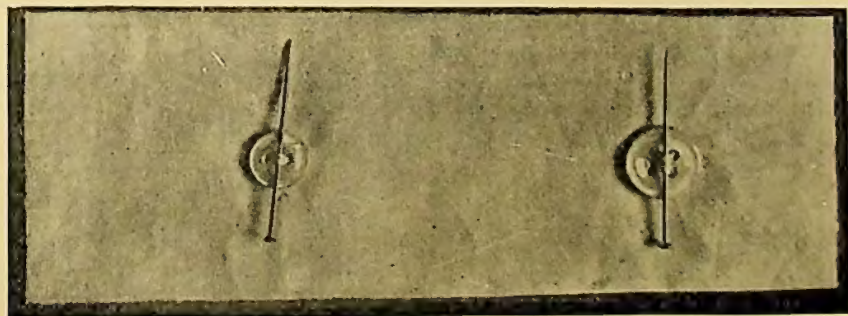
Torn felt hats may be mended by overhanding the edges together on the wrong side. Thin places in the felt may be darned, using thread to match.

Boys' sweaters which have worn thin on the elbows may be darned with wool yarn. Then to cover the darn and reinforce the elbow, cut an oval shaped patch of soft leather. Baste it over the elbow and stitch it by machine close to the edge of the leather.

BUTTONS

Use a double thread or heavy single thread.

Fasten thread with several back stitches on the right side of the garment and bring needle up through button.



A. 2 hole

B. 4 hole

Fig. 1.—Showing method of sewing on buttons, pin in position.

Place a pin across top of button and take stitches over it. (When buttons are used as a decoration only, do not insert pin.)

Threads which pass from hole to hole of a two-hole button should run parallel to the buttonhole.

Sew the button in place securely, remove the pin, draw the button as far from the garment as possible, bring the needle up between the button and the garment, close to the center of button, and wind the thread around the stitches three or four times, to form a "shank." This allows room for the thickness of the buttonhole. Bring needle to under side and fasten securely.

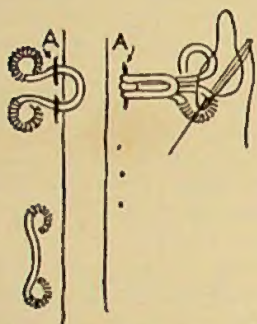


Fig. 2.—"A" shows method of tacking at edge of garment

HOOKS AND EYES

Place hooks on wrong side of upper edge of the closing and usually the loop end should be $\frac{1}{8}$ inch from the edge.

If a straight eye is used, it is placed on the right side of the under edge of the closing, directly under the end of the hook.

If a round eye is used, it is attached to the wrong side of the under edge of the closing so that it extends $\frac{1}{8}$ inch beyond the edge.

Using a single thread, sew around circular ends with buttonhole stitches or over and over stitches.

Tack across ends of hooks and sides of eyes to hold them firmly in place.

Thread eyes may be used in place of metal ones, and are less conspicuous.

SNAP FASTENERS



Fig. 3

Place ball side of snap on under side of the upper lap of garment, and socket side on right side of the under lap of opening.

Use a single thread with a knot in the end. Fasten the thread with a small stitch taken through the place to be covered by the snap. Sew with several overhand stitches or buttonhole stitches in each hole. Pass the needle under the snap to carry the thread from one hole to another. (See Fig. 3.) Fasten thread by taking two or three small stitches on wrong side.

When snaps must be sewed where there is only one thickness of material, a piece of tape or material should be placed under the snap on the wrong side of the garment and sewed on with the snap.

LEATHER GLOVES

To repair ripped stitches in seams, use as nearly as possible the same kind of stitch as was originally used.

Use one strand of mercerized darning cotton because it shows less than silk and is not apt to cut the leather.

Use the finest needle possible for kid and soft leather gloves.

To repair tears in gloves, blanket stitch the edge of the tear and overhand edges of blanket stitches together.

Kid and leather gloves may also be mended with adhesive tape.

FUR

A split or tear in fur is mended from the wrong side by overhanding the edges of the hide together.

To cut fur, use a sharp knife or razor blade on the hide. Never cut fur with scissors or from the hair side.

For worn edges, remove the binding, cut away worn edge, rebind, turn binding against hide and hem it in place.

PATCHING

Worn and torn places in clothes, table linens, and bedding may be patched. Material for the patch should match the article to be mended as closely as possible. If the article warrants, fade and shrink patch to match exactly. If no extra material is available, a pocket, under side of hem, sash, belt ends, or material from other inconspicuous places may be used.

There are several methods of patching. The method used will depend on the kind of cloth, type of article, location of hole and value of the article or garment patched.

1. *Hemmed Patch*: This should be used where strength is required and where a conspicuous patch is not objectionable, as on underclothing, aprons, household linens, men and boys' shirts and overalls.

Cut patch from material like that in the article being mended, with the threads and design of material matching. The shape of the patch is usually square or oblong, and should cover the hole and the worn parts around it.

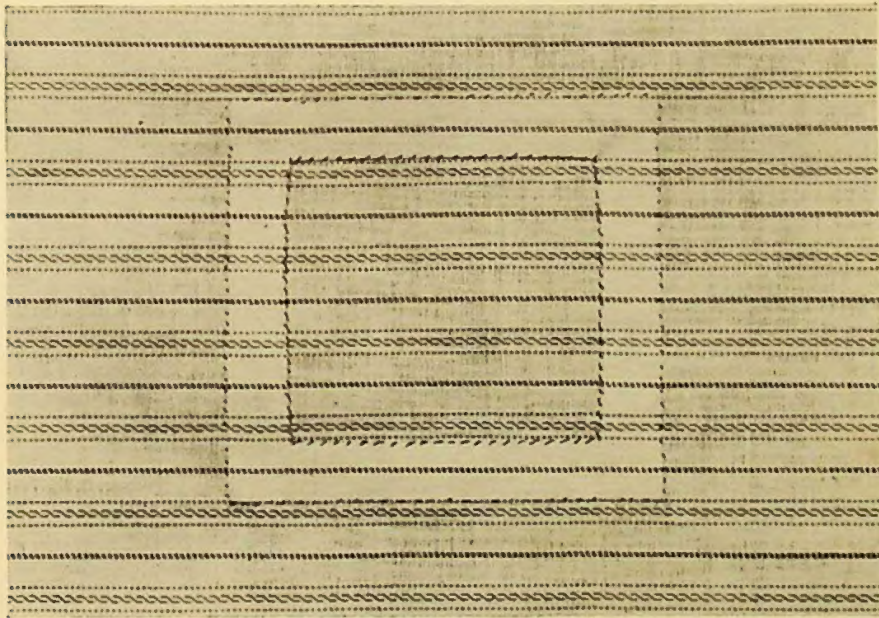


Fig. 4.—Hemmed patch—right side

Find the center of the place to be patched by creasing lengthwise on the warp thread and crosswise on the woof thread. Crease the patch in the same way. Crease a $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch or a $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch turn to the right side of patch, and place right side of patch against wrong side of material to be mended with creased lines matching. Turn corners neatly, baste patch in position.

With right side of garment up cut the hole the shape of the patch. Cut seam allowance diagonally at each corner and turn to wrong side. Baste edge of material to patch.

On the right side, hem the garment to the patch, using the hemming stitch. Conceal the stitches as much as possible. On the wrong side hem the patch to the garment. Take up only a thread of the garment with each stitch so that stitches will show as little as possible from the right side (Fig. 4). This patch may be stitched by machine on bed linens, etc., but is less noticeable when done by hand.

2. *Overhand Patch*: This may be used where there is little strain. It may be used on cotton, silk or wool material. It is not as strong as the hemmed patch, but if well done it shows less.

The patch is prepared in the same way as for a hemmed patch. That is, the pattern must be matched, warp and woof threads matched, and center of the patch over the center of the worn spot or hole. Crease $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch turn to the wrong side of the patch. Place the wrong side of the patch to the right side of the garment with centers matching. Baste in place. Crease the garment back along the edge of the patch and overhand the patch to the garment, using tiny stitches. Turn square corners.

When the four sides have been overhanded, with wrong side of the garment up, cut worn part of garment away, leaving $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch seam allowance

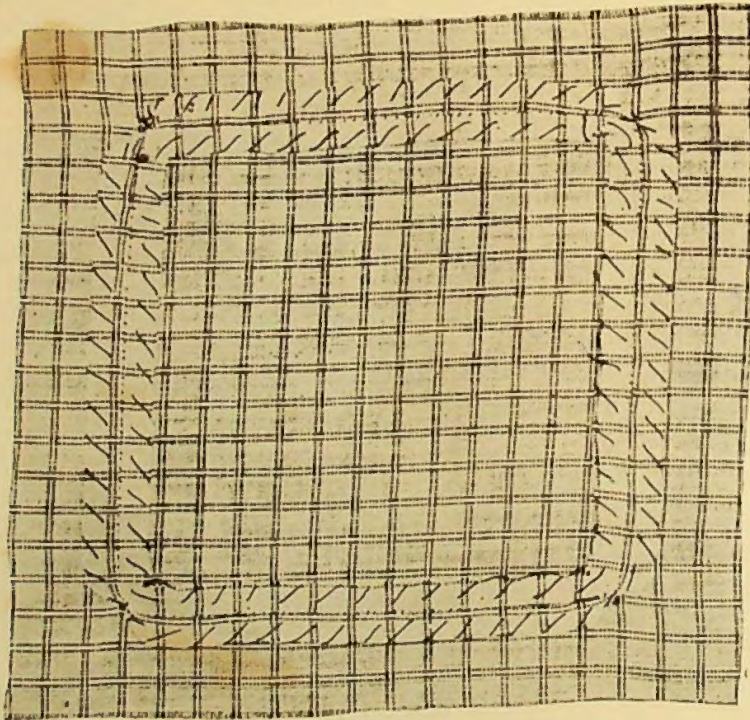


Fig. 5.—Overhand patch, wrong side

around the edge of the patch. Press the seam open, snip the corners so that the seam will lie flat, and overcast raw edges if material frays easily (Fig. 5).

3. *Glued Patch*: This method is practically invisible. It may be used on a tear or split or to reinforce worn places but is seldom satisfactory when the edges of the tear are frayed or there is a hole. Neither is it satisfactory on thin materials or on garments which are to be laundered or dry cleaned often. Follow directions accompanying the mending tissue, cement or glue used.

DARNING

Darning is usually used on knitted materials, but may be used also to reinforce thin places and mend small holes in woven materials.

1. *Darning Woven Material*: Use a fine needle and thread of a suitable color and fineness. Ravelings of material to be darned, fine cotton thread or split silk may be used. Sewing silk is made by twisting three strands of silk;

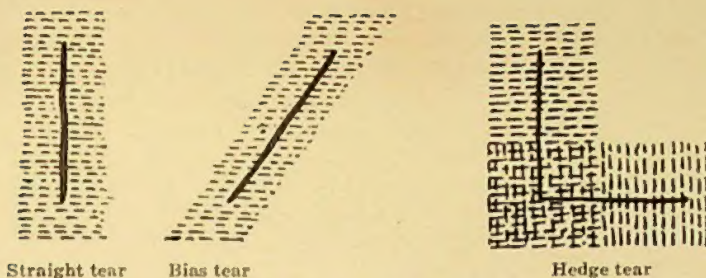


Fig. 6.—Darning tears

these strands when untwisted are very soft and inconspicuous in a darn. This darn may be used on cotton, linen, silk, or wool material.

Bring edges of tear together. Darn from the right or wrong side with running stitches in line with either the warp or woof threads (Fig. 6). This depends on the direction of the tear. The stitches should be alternately over and under the edges of the tear in order to make them secure and weave in the broken yarns along tear.

The darning should extend the same distance on both sides of the tear and far enough past the ends of the tear to include the weak part.

Any of the darns shown in Fig. 6 will be stronger if a piece of material is placed under the tear and the darn is made from the right side. The stay piece may be the same material as the garment being darned, or light weight material such as net, chiffon, lawn, or thin silk.

2. Darning Stockings or Knit Garments:

The thread used should be as near as possible the same weight and color as that of which the garment is knit. Wool yarn should be used for wool garments, cotton yarn for cotton garments, mercerized cotton for lisle garments, and silk or mercerized cotton for silk garments.

A darn should extend well beyond the edge of the hole or worn place. An irregular shape on the outside edge prevents strain on any one set of threads.

First place the lengthwise threads; let every other thread go under the edge of the hole in crossing it, and the alternate thread go over the edge of the hole (Fig. 7). This weaves the edge of hole into the darn and makes it neater and more comfortable. The

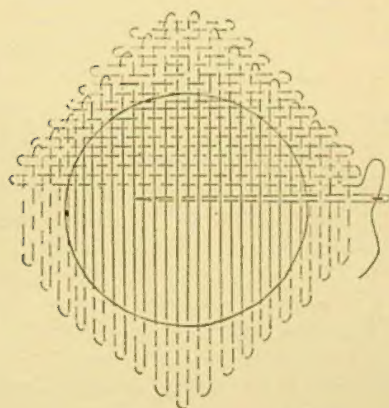


Fig. 7.—Darning a hole

crosswise threads are then woven over and under the lengthwise threads, alternating as in plain weaving. The darn will be more elastic if a small loop is left at the end of every row of stitches.

The hole may be held over the hand, a cardboard, or a darning when darning hose. A darn made from the wrong side will show less than one made from the right side. Keep the darn as smooth as possible.

3. *Dropped Stitches or Runs*: In knit garments these require different care. Turn garment wrong side out, fold on the run, and overhand edges together. Be sure to catch the loop at each end and fasten it so that it will not cause another run.

Overhanding the run is a slow process and often makes a conspicuous line. A quicker and as satisfactory a way is to machine stitch the edges of the run

together in a narrow seam on the wrong side. Be sure the loops at the ends of the run are caught. The threads are fastened by retracing the stitching. The tension should be somewhat looser than for general stitching.

4. *Machine Darning*: For woven materials, tie presser foot of machine so it will be raised about $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch above material. Place material to be darned in embroidery hoops. Start to sew with the machine, moving the hoops back and forth under the needle until the thin place or small hole has been filled in. Turn and put in the crosswise threads in the same way.

Darning attachments may be purchased for some machines. Follow directions in using them.

5. *Darning Sweaters and Coarsely Knitted Garments*: Use yarn to match garment. It is difficult to obtain yarn fine enough for some sweaters. For these, heavier yarns may be untwisted and fewer strands used. Use blunt crewel needle.

Ravel frayed edges of hole and thin places to form a rectangle. Baste edge of rectangular hole to a thin cardboard or heavy paper, being careful not to stretch. To make a sample sweater darn, put in warp threads as in Figure 8.

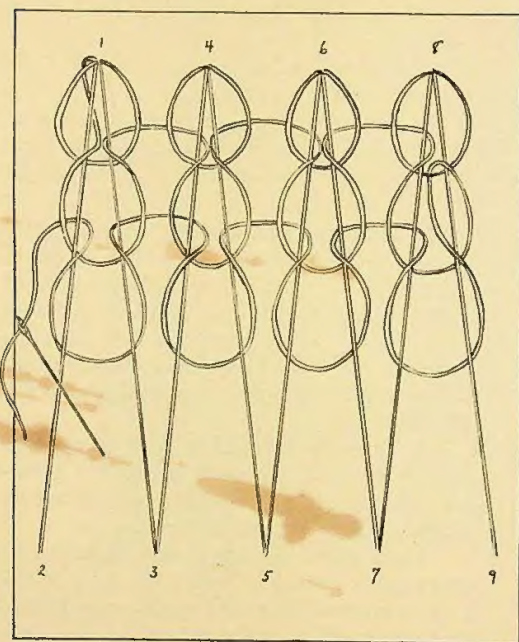


Fig. 8.—Sweater darn

Starting at 1, bring needle to right side of darn, stick in at 2 to wrong side and out at 3. On the right side carry the needle up to 1, stick through to wrong side, bringing it out at 4, thence down to 3 on right side and over to 5 on the wrong side, next up to 4 on right, over to 6 on wrong side, etc.

Working on an actual sweater, points 1, 4, 6, 8 are located in the center of the loops of yarn formed by the last row of stitches at one end of the rectangular hole; points 2, 3, 5, 7, 9 represent loops at the other end.

With needle coming out at 8, or the last point at the top of the sample, slip it under the pair of yarns which go into 8, stick the needle down through point 8 forming a loose loop. Bring needle out at 6, go under that pair of

yarns and back into 6. Continue in this manner until a series of loops are formed across the top. When darning a sweater, this step is omitted.

At point 1 fasten the thread and bring needle to right side through point 1. Bring it up between the first pair of yarns and in the center of the first loop. Slip needle under first pair of warp yarns, then down into first loop and between the warp yarns, forming a loose loop. Thence under the second loop, bringing needle up through center of loop and between the warp yarns, then under the second set of warp yarns, back down into the center of the second loop, over into the third loop and repeat as before. Complete second row of loops, turn and make third row, etc., in same manner. In darning a sweater, the loops at the sides of the hole are joined to those of the darning.